

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Listing of Claims:

1. (Withdrawn) A preventive or therapeutic agent for inflammatory bowel disease comprising an interleukin-6 (IL-6) antagonist as an active ingredient.
2. (Withdrawn) The preventive or therapeutic agent according to claim 1 wherein the IL-6 antagonist is an antibody against IL-6 receptor.
3. (Withdrawn) The preventive or therapeutic agent according to claim 2 wherein the antibody against IL-6 receptor is a monoclonal antibody against IL-6 receptor.
4. (Withdrawn) The preventive or therapeutic agent according to claim 3 wherein the antibody against IL-6 receptor is a monoclonal antibody against human IL-6 receptor.
5. (Withdrawn) The preventive or therapeutic agent according to claim 3 wherein the antibody directed against IL-6 receptor is a monoclonal antibody against mouse IL-6 receptor.
6. (Withdrawn) The preventive or therapeutic agent according to claim 2 wherein the antibody against IL-6 receptor is a recombinant antibody.
7. (Withdrawn) The preventive or therapeutic agent according to claim 4 wherein the monoclonal antibody against human IL-6 receptor is PM-1 antibody.
8. (Withdrawn) The preventive or therapeutic agent according to claim 5 wherein the monoclonal antibody against mouse IL-6 receptor is MR16-1 antibody.
9. (Withdrawn) The preventive or therapeutic agent according to claim 2 wherein the antibody against IL-6 receptor is a chimeric or humanized antibody against IL-6 receptor.
10. (Withdrawn) The preventive or therapeutic agent according to claim 9 wherein

the humanized antibody against IL-6 receptor is a humanized PM-1 antibody.

11. (Withdrawn) The preventive or therapeutic agent according to claim 1 wherein the inflammatory bowel disease is Crohn's disease or ulcerative colitis.

12. (Withdrawn) An agent for suppressing weight loss in inflammatory bowel disease said agent comprising an IL-6 antagonist as an active ingredient.

13. (Withdrawn) An agent for suppressing weight loss in inflammatory bowel disease said agent comprising an antibody against IL-6 receptor as an active ingredient.

14. (Withdrawn) A method of preventing or treating inflammatory bowel disease which method comprises administering an interleukin-6 (IL-6) antagonist to the subject.

15. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 14 wherein the IL-6 antagonist is an antibody against IL-6 receptor.

16. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 15 wherein the antibody against IL-6 receptor is a monoclonal antibody against IL-6 receptor.

17. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 16 wherein the antibody against IL-6 receptor is a monoclonal antibody against human IL-6 receptor.

18. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 16 wherein the antibody against IL-6 receptor is a monoclonal antibody against mouse IL-6 receptor.

19. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 15 wherein the antibody against IL-6 receptor is a recombinant antibody.

20. (Canceled)

21. (Canceled)

22. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 15 wherein the antibody against IL-6 receptor is a chimeric antibody or a humanized antibody against IL-6 receptor.

23. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 22 wherein the humanized antibody against IL-6 receptor is a humanized PM-1 antibody.

24. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 14 wherein the inflammatory bowel disease is Crohn's disease or ulcerative colitis.

25. (Withdrawn) A method of suppressing weight loss in inflammatory bowel disease which method comprises administering an IL-6 antagonist to the subject.

26. (Withdrawn) A method of suppressing weight loss in inflammatory bowel disease which method comprises administering an antibody against IL-6 receptor to the subject.

27. (Withdrawn) The use of an interleukin-6 (IL-6) antagonist for the production of a preventive or therapeutic agent for inflammatory bowel disease.

28. (Withdrawn) The use according to claim 27 wherein the IL-6 antagonist is an antibody against IL-6 receptor.

29. (Withdrawn) The use according to claim 28 wherein the antibody against IL-6 receptor is a monoclonal antibody against IL-6 receptor.

30. (Withdrawn) The use according to claim 29 wherein the antibody against IL-6 receptor is a monoclonal antibody against human IL-6 receptor.

31. (Withdrawn) The use according to claim 29 wherein the antibody against IL-6

receptor is a monoclonal antibody against mouse IL-6 receptor.

32. (Withdrawn) The use according to claim 28 wherein the antibody against IL-6 receptor is a recombinant antibody.

33. (Withdrawn) The use according to claim 30 wherein the monoclonal antibody against human IL-6 receptor is PM-1 antibody.

34. (Withdrawn) The use according to claim 31 wherein the monoclonal antibody against mouse IL-6 receptor is MR16-1 antibody.

35. (Withdrawn) The use according to claim 30 wherein the antibody against IL-6 receptor is a chimeric or humanized antibody against IL-6 receptor.

36. (Withdrawn) The use according to claim 35 wherein the humanized antibody against IL-6 receptor is a humanized PM-1 antibody.

37. (Withdrawn) The use according to claim 27 wherein the inflammatory bowel disease is Crohn's disease or ulcerative colitis.

38. (Withdrawn) The use of an IL-6 antagonist for the production of an agent for suppressing weight loss in inflammatory bowel disease.

39. (Withdrawn) The use of antibody directed against IL-6 receptor for the production of an agent for suppressing weight loss in inflammatory bowel disease.

40. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 22 wherein the inflammatory bowel disease is Crohn's disease or ulcerative colitis.

41. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 17 wherein the antibody against IL-6 receptor is a chimeric antibody or a humanized antibody against IL-6 receptor.

42. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 41 wherein the inflammatory bowel disease is Crohn's disease or ulcerative colitis.

43. (Currently Amended) A method of treating inflammatory bowel disease, said method comprising administering to a subject in need thereof an anti-interleukin-6 receptor antibody which binds to interleukin-6 receptor having the following amino acid sequence:

MLAVGCALLAALLAAPGAALAPRRCPAQEVARCVLTSLPGDSVTLTCPGVEPEDNA
TVHWVLRKPAAGSHPSRWAGMGRRTLLRSVQLHDSGNYSCYRAGRPAGTVHLLV
DVPPEEPQLSCFRKSPLSNVCEWGPRSTPSLTTKAVLLVRKFQNSPAEDFQEPQOYS
QESQKFSCQLAVPEGDSSFYIVSMCVASSVGSKFSTQTFQGCCIQLPDPPANITVTAVA
RNPRWLSVTWQDPHSWNSSFYRLRFELRYRAERSKTFTTWMVKDLQHHCVIHDAAW
SGLRHVVQLRAQEEFGQGEWSEWSPEAMGTPWTESRPPAENEVSTPMQALTTNKD
DDNILFRDSANATSLPVQDSSSVPLPTFLVAGGSLAFCTLLCIAIVLRFKKTWKLRLAK
EGKTSMHPPYSLGQLVPERPRPTPVLVPLISPPVSPSSLGSDNTSSHNRPDARDPRSPY
DISNTDYFFPR (SEQ ID NO:1),

blocks signal transduction by IL-6 and inhibits the biological activity of IL-6.

44. (Cancelled)

45. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 43, wherein the anti-interleukin-6 receptor antibody is a chimeric antibody.

46. (Previously Presented) The antibody according to claim 43, wherein the anti-interleukin-6 receptor antibody is a humanized antibody.

47. (Currently Amended) A method according to any one of claims 43, 45 or [[to]] 46, wherein the inflammatory bowel disease is Crohn's disease or ulcerative colitis.